



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Hazardous Tree and Brush Removal Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	Forest Lawn Scout Reservation, Camp Helendade, and Camp Osito near Lakes Arrowhead and Big Bear - Portions of T2N R1W SEC 36, T2N R2W SEC 19 & 32, T2N R3W SEC 24, SBBM	COUNTY	San Bernardino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Eric Just, RPF# 2913, Forestry Assistant II		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE Southern Operations Center 2524 Mulberry Street, Riverside, CA 92601	PHONE	951-320-6165

Project Description

The intent of this project is to create a mosaic of well-spaced, healthy vegetation capable of mitigating the negative effects of a major wildfire and to enhance strategic wildland firefighting defense locations. The project consists of three (3) sites totaling approximately 200 acres. A combination of treatment methods will be utilized to treat the vegetation: mechanical mastication and hand treatment of brush species along with the removal and chipping of selected understory trees twelve inches (12") or less in diameter at breast height (DBH). Funded through the Emergency Supplemental Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant (HFT), work will be performed through contractual services (4GT0A103) by a Licensed Timber Operator (A) and supervised by CAL FIRE resource management staff.

EXEMPTION STATUS

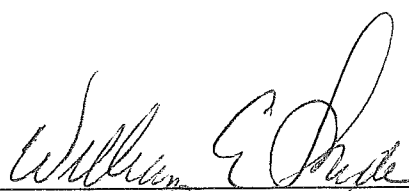
- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304(g) Minor Alterations to Land
Class 7 § 15307 Actions by Regulatory Agency for Protection of Natural Resources
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) and Class 7 (Actions by a Regulatory Agency for Protection of Natural Resources) Categorical Exemptions described in state law 14 CCR, Chapter 3, Article 19 § 15304 and § 15307 are an appropriate assessment based on project design, contract conditions limiting operations (soil protection measures, operational hours, and proficient/maintained equipment), and application of existing regulations (Forest Practice Act/Rules). It has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect on or to the environment and thus, is exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Prior to reaching this conclusion, however, the Department first conducted an environmental impact analysis to confirm that no *Exceptions* exist within the project area which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption. Possible exceptions lead agencies must consider include a) sensitive location, b) cumulative impact, c) significant impact due to unusual circumstances, d) impacts to scenic highways, e) activities within a hazardous waste site, and f) significant adverse change to the significance of a historical resource (see 14 CCR, Chapter 3, Article 19 § 15300.2. Exceptions). Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CSR-Riverside.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING




William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date 7/27/10
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection